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CMU’s education programs receive 5-year accreditation

Central Michigan University’s teacher education programs have received a significant national endorsement for quality in educating future teachers.

Both the undergraduate and graduate programs received full accreditation from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council for the next five years. This marks the first change in the program’s accreditation since CMU was accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education in 1954.

College of Education and Human Services interim associate dean Ray Francis says the change is good news for students, both current and prospective.

“The thing that TEAC gives us the opportunity to do is describe who and what we are as a program. It allows us to define ourselves. It means that students are guaranteed a high-quality program,” Francis says.

Francis adds that TEAC gives faculty more of an opportunity for participation and involvement in the education program’s curriculum.

“For CMU, we focus on consistently high GPAs, a strong undergraduate completion rate, and outstanding placement and employment opportunities for those in the program,” he says. “It continues the traditions we’ve had since the 1950s as a highly effective program at the undergraduate and graduate levels.”

Student-focused renovations

Teacher education senior Alexandria Kennedy grabs her peppermint mocha from the newly added Starbucks Coffee Company in the Bovee University Center and sits down to wait for her classmates to join her in the new second floor student lounge.

Even though it is just after 10 a.m. on a Tuesday, groups of students sit on couches, at desks and in glass-walled study rooms. The large area is more than half full.

“This is the place to be on campus,” says Kennedy. “After I meet with my group members, I am going to grab lunch, pick up a book for class and stop in the Greek Life office. Everything is here.”

The $5 million University Center project renovation had the goal to increase the amount of variety and the quality of space dedicated to students, says Chad Garland, UC building coordinator. “To start the process, we asked students what they wanted to have in this location. And we listened.”

In addition to a U.S. Post Office, a gaming area and the coffee shop, several offices were renovated – including the Center for Inclusion and Diversity and the Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center.

Senior Kelsey Karkkainen does her student teaching in a kindergarten class.

alumni.cmich.edu/centralight for more
CMU students have found a new way to give back to those in need through the use of their academic talents.

Several interior design students were given the opportunity to renovate several rooms in Midland’s Shelterhouse.

Faculty member Brenda Skeel said that by getting involved in the renovations of the safe house for women and children who are victims of domestic violence, she wanted to show her students the value of what they were learning.

“I thought it was important to show them that design can make a difference. I wanted to show them that they could give back to the community through design,” Skeel says.

Cromwell senior Brianne Bawol was involved in the project redesigning the Teen Room, the Mom and Me Play Room, and the Play Therapy Room at the Shelterhouse.

With such an impactful experience, Bawol says her work with the Shelterhouse has helped her figure out what she wants to do with her degree once she graduates.

“It was everything I wanted out of a project. It was an invaluable experience as far as supplementing my education,” Bawol says. “It’s one more experience that helped me find my career path.”

**Taking the show on the road**

Opus XV guests will enjoy live entertainment, fabulous cuisine and an elegant night out at the Midland Center for the Arts.

Opus, the annual event that showcases CMU students’ musical talent in a collage concert, will take place March 24.

Proceeds from the ticketed event benefit the School of Music Endowment, which funds scholarships, equipment and travel for music students.

“We are proud of our students’ tremendous accomplishments and felt this was an excellent opportunity to bring an elegant night of entertainment to Midland,” says Elizabeth G. Ross, chairwoman of Opus XV.

The 2012 event coordinators moved the venue to the Midland Center for the Arts to accommodate the growing audience for the event. The Opus event will return to CMU in 2013.

For more information, go to mus.cmich.edu/events/opus.
Walter Beach was a star for Central Michigan University football, but he also made his mark off the field.

When the Pontiac native attended CMU from 1956 to 1960, Beach said he was the only African-American on the football team. Beach said the support of his team members and coach made things much easier during that segregated time.

"I never had to fight over anything anyone said about me. They fought for me, and I was proud that Coach Kelly knew how to handle the discomfort I had."

But Beach, who played for the then Boston Patriots and the Cleveland Browns, says his experiences growing up in the 1940s and 1950s helped him focus on civil rights and helping people in difficult situations find opportunities – something the 79-year-old still dedicates his time toward as CEO of Amer-I-Can in New York.

CMU welcomed back Beach last semester when he made a speech to students in the Powers Hall Ballroom. Here is what he had to say:
You were part of the 1964 Cleveland Browns team that won the National Football League championship. One of your teammates was the legendary Jim Brown, who founded the Amer-I-Can program. What is your relationship with Jim, and what are your memories of the NFL championship?

Jim has a great deal of impact on my life. He’s very, very positive. He’s a bright guy, and he’s a very sensitive and intelligent human being. Jim, like me, doesn’t really like talking too much about football. Like me, he says we want to be relevant. Relevant is what you can do to help other people. What you’ve done as a football player really is not relevant in the everyday aspect of our development.

When we won the championship, it was an unexplainable feeling because you get that euphoric aspect. You feel like you’re walking on air. You’re the best in the world. You just feel so excited about it.

Through your position in the Amer-I-Can program, you travel the country speaking to and working with at-risk young people. What is the message you try to deliver to them?

The main message is about raising self-esteem. They don’t need to feel inadequate about the kinds of mistakes they make or the problems they have. They have to understand that everybody makes mistakes. We want them to understand what we want them to do and want them to be. I tell a lot of young people, ‘I want for you what you want for you.’ You want to be a criminal, that’s all right with me. Don’t you want to have a decent life? Most people want to have a decent life. They don’t know how to get to it.

In 1958, Walter Beach takes a photo on the field with Kelvin Price, Oarie Lemanski Jr. and Jerry O’Neil.

This young lady said to me that we want everything for our kids, so our kids are spoiled. We try to give them everything we can because we didn’t have everything. I said, but you have to give them values. That’s what you have to give them. Not cars or money or cell phones – give them the values that you live by. That’s what they’re looking for.

How gratifying is it for you to be in a position to help young people change their lives?

It’s very rewarding. For me to be in New York, and to walk down Fulton Street and all of a sudden someone yells out, ‘Mr. Beach! Remember me? I was in your program.’ We didn’t turn her out to be a scientist or to cure cancer, but she got a job at Macy’s and she goes to work every day and she loves it. She was on the road to being a criminal, so it’s very rewarding, very fulfilling.

You have always been very public in your stance on societal issues. Would you like to see more public figures use their platforms to take stances on political or societal issues?

I would like to see that, but I don’t decide that. People have to do what they can do. If that isn’t what they have a predisposition to do, then I haven’t walked in their shoes. A lot of guys say, ‘What about the big stars? They don’t do anything.’ I say, that’s their choice. But I want to make myself relevant. If they don’t want to be relevant, then that’s on them.
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Central Michigan University has achieved tremendous growth in both size and stature over the years, and the university continues to lay a strong foundation of excellence in how students are prepared academically for success. CMU has a long and strong legacy regarding excellence with faculty research and student achievement in the classroom. Yet, CMU, like other universities in Michigan, faces many challenges as we move forward into the future. These challenges make it increasingly important for CMU to continue to invest our financial resources as well as our human resources in a manner that will advance the university in an increasingly competitive environment. Academic prioritization will provide a road map in meeting that goal.

Academic prioritization at Central Michigan University has provided a review and ranking of the more than 400 academic programs offered. The rankings are based on a number of items including student demand for the program, number of graduates, relevancy and length of time to complete the program. The overall goal of the academic prioritization process is to determine how the university can better focus for the future by advancing academic excellence and student learning while making the university more responsive in areas of strength and emerging interest.

The academic prioritization process took more than a year and involved input from faculty, the Academic Senate, the Council of Deans, deans advisory groups, senior leadership and the provost. The prioritization process categorized each program into one of five categories:

**Priority 1:** candidate for enhancement

**Priority 2:** retained at a somewhat higher level of support

**Priority 3:** retained at a neutral level of support

**Priority 4:** retained but at a lower level of support

**Priority 5:** Candidate for reduction, phase out or consolidation with another program

The priority rankings that resulted from this process of academic prioritization are expected to guide future resource and programmatic decisions at Central Michigan University for the foreseeable future. The data collected also will be used in the strategic planning process, which is currently underway.

It is important to note that students currently majoring or minoring in programs targeted for elimination will graduate. Arrangements will be made to ensure completion of course work and graduation requirements for eliminated programs.

This review has enhanced CMU’s commitment to student learning and in so doing, makes the university more responsive in areas of strength and emerging interest with special attention to the needs of our current students, students who will attend for decades to come and the communities we serve.
Nationally recognized research

Scientific American features Caspari’s look into evolution of longevity

TEXT BY DAN DIGMANN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PEGGY BRISBANE
The longevity of human life and its evolution has captivated Rachel Caspari throughout her career as a researcher and educator. Investigating and analyzing fossil teeth in the modern humans of the Upper Paleolithic, a period that began about 30,000 years ago, led the CMU anthropology faculty member to make some profound conclusions about the evolution of older adults. Such work captured the attention of Scientific American – the leading source and authority for science, technology information and policy for a general audience that won the 2011 National Magazine Award for General Excellence. Now the magazine’s 3.5 million worldwide consumers know all about Caspari’s research. The August 2011 issue of the publication features “The Evolution of Grandparents,” a six-page article the magazine invited Caspari to write about her research into Neanderthals, modern human origins and the evolution of longevity.

“It’s really nice to know that people are paying attention and that people think that your work is of interest to the general public,” says Caspari, an expert in human evolution and physical anthropology. “Hopefully this will attract more people to this kind of study.”

Cultural activities are key

Through her analysis of the teeth of Neanderthals who lived nearly 130,000 years ago in Croatia, Caspari concluded that few ever lived past 30 years of age. In fact, the new micro-CT methods they are developing to better assess age at death in fossils are corroborating their earlier findings and supporting their observations that few early humans survived to become grandparents until quite recently, in evolutionary time. Moving forward, she says a large increase in the number of older people occurs in the Upper Paleolithic period. Hallmarks of this period include a burgeoning of cultural activity, including cave art, body decorations and jewelry. While smatterings of art appear earlier in the archeological record, Caspari says it never persists until the Upper Paleolithic period and that the increase in older people is likely linked to this cultural explosion.

Rachel Caspari’s article spans six pages in the August 2011 issue of Scientific American.
“Older people are important for the transmission of cultural information across generations,” she says. “Most importantly, the demographic changes associated with increased longevity – population growth and expansion – are tied to cultural development.”

Increased life expectancy leads to more offspring and care of grandchildren leads to increased survivorship of youngsters, Caspari says, noting that both these factors promote population growth, which leads to more intergroup contact and innovation.

In her Scientific American article, Caspari concludes, “The relation between adult survivorship and the emergence of sophisticated new cultural traditions, starting with those of the Upper Paleolithic, was almost certainly a positive feedback process. Initially a by-product of some sort of cultural change, longevity became a prerequisite for the unique and complex behaviors that signal modernity.

“These innovations in turn promoted the importance and survivorship of older adults, which led to the population expansions that had such profound cultural and genetic effects on our predecessors. Older and wiser, indeed.”

Having the academic and scientific work of faculty featured in scholarly journals and national publications is a testament to the high level of work conducted at CMU and a great point of pride for the university, says James Hageman, interim vice provost and director of the CMU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

“Scientific American editors only are going to publish articles describing really good science that also are of broad interest,” he says. “It’s sort of a sign that you’ve arrived if Scientific American asks you to put an article into its publication, and it’s a real sign of Dr. Caspari’s stature.”

Caspari is continuing with her research into the longevity of human life and its evolution. And she is quick to point out that evolution didn’t end with the Upper Paleolithic period.

“We are evolving very fast right now,” she says. “It’s a mistake to think that the evolutionary process has stopped, and I think people have this tendency to think that it has. Evolution is happening right now, and to understand its importance now, it’s also important to understand its past.”

Micro-CT methods show digital imaging of the different layers of fossilized teeth.
CMU Program celebrates 50 years of student success

There are many firsts in Alfonso Salais Jr.'s Spanish program at Everett High School in Lansing.

Salais, '94 M.A. '05, created the state's first and only high school mariachi ensemble, an award-winning, ethnically diverse group that travels around the country promoting Spanish and Latino culture through music.

And the Milken Educator Award – which is like an Oscar for teaching – winner's students often receive first place in Central Michigan University's Foreign Language Day Competition, for everything from original Spanish-language skits and songs to interpretive readings of Spanish poetry.

But working hard to be first is nothing new to Salais.

At CMU, Salais was a member of the first class of Centralis Scholars, and he cofounded the university's Latino fraternity, Sigma Lambda Beta, in 1992.

“When I was in high school, I was quiet. I kept to myself,” says Salais, who grew up in Lansing. “CMU opened up the world for me. And I need to do the same for others.”

During the past 50 years, the CMU Honors Program has had a significant impact on many lives, like it did for Salais.

More than 10,000 students have been served by the program during the last half century.

And the program keeps growing – as does the social and academic responsibilities.

Director Phame Camarena says Honors students must complete a capstone project – basically original research or a creative endeavor – as a program requirement. More than just classroom projects, the final products from this work are often presented or published professionally.

Combined with expectations for service, global citizenship and overall academic achievement, Honors students are challenged to make their work meaningful. “Honors goes beyond having a high GPA – it is learning to make thoughtful decisions and to serve others,” Camarena says.

As part of his capstone project, Ryan Lewis, a senior from Holland, Mich., used his woodworking skills to create a new seal for the Honors Program – just in time to celebrate 50 years on campus.

Sitting in the Engineering and Technology Building, Lewis puts the finishing touches on the seal – using skills he learned from his grandfather, a carpenter, and his mentor, industrial education assistant professor Alan Papendick.

“I love woodworking and I have done it since I was a kid. This is the piece I am most proud of,” Lewis says. “It will be on campus for years to come. And I improved on my techniques through working closely with Professor Papendick and having to focus on this project.”

Camarena says personalized attention from the faculty and enriched educational opportunities are perks of the Honors Program, but the students are required to give back the same personalized attention to others.

And it goes beyond tutoring classmates or doing weekend volunteer work.
More Honors students are being challenged to think globally. They are working as goodwill ambassadors in Beijing and travel annually to Oaxaca, Mexico, to aid shelters that house homeless and orphaned children.

With the experience students are gaining through world service opportunities, the Honors Program is looking at making international travel a priority – and having scholarships available for students.

“Global citizenship is an important part of education today,” says Camarena. “Yes, you’re going to engage academically, but you’re also going to be an active global citizen. Honors at CMU has the goal to guide students in developing their talents to change the world for good.”

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**Academics+Service = Honors Education**

I’ve reached the homestretch of my undergraduate education at Central Michigan University, with my May graduation date drawing nearer.

As I look back, it’s not my graduation date that I find meaningful, but rather the journey I took to get there.

With the Honors Program as my vehicle, the past four years have been quite the journey – a journey in the pursuit of knowledge, the quest to find my personal identity and discovery of the obligations I have to use the gifts I’ve been given for the greater good.

Without a doubt I will leave this university a much different person than when I arrived in 2008. As a premiere academic program, the Honors Program has encouraged me to broaden my horizons and learn about topics I may not have otherwise.

But I also have learned things as an Honors student that cannot be quantified by GPA or grades. One of the important lessons is: What good are your talents if you don’t use them for the greater good and share them with others to promote their development?

As the editor of the student-produced newsletter Honor Bound, I did six full publications and have written projects ranging from poster designs to organizing a multimedia contest.

But the most important part is that I’ve been able to share my journalism knowledge and skills with more than 100 volunteer writers in the past 2 ½ years.

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**Celebrating tradition**

To celebrate 50 years, the Honors Program has brought back traditions such as the annual trip to Stratford, Ontario, to see the Shakespeare Festival, the walk across the Mackinac Bridge, Fireside chats and more.

For information about Honors Program 50-year events, to donate to a scholarship or to learn more about today’s Honors Program, contact Director Phame Camarena at phame.camarena@cmich.edu or 989-774-3902.

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The Honors Program has given me opportunities to develop my professional journalism and communication skills in a way I may never have been able to otherwise.

I’ve been able to parlay these skills into my professional life as I pursue a career in sports information. Through my connections and publication experience, I landed a position in the CMU Athletics Department traveling around the country to cover and take photos of athletic events.

And during the past year, I was able to share my insights and experiences with a new class of Honors students – as a mentor. I encouraged students to become involved in community projects. One of the things I am most proud of is raising more than $3,600 by co-organizing the first two charity balls in Honors Program history.

The Honors Program and the people associated with it have impacted my life in a profound way that will guide me as I move forward in life, and I could never thank them enough for that.

The past 50 years of Honors graduates understand this. And future classes of Honors students will feel the same way.

Thank you, CMU, for giving me this opportunity.
In the middle of CMU’s University Center Rotunda, next to a poster board about the Health Fitness major, Honors students Sasha Rudow and Alex Farrington drop to the ground and start doing pushups.

One. Two. Three.

Suddenly a crowd gathers around them. The two CMU sophomores get up and dare the onlookers – high school students from Southwest Detroit – to do the same.

After a pause, a group of boys decide to accept their challenge. After the competition is over, Rudow talks to the high school sophomores about college and what they are looking to do with their lives past high school.

Several shrug their shoulders. But one girl speaks up: “I want to go to college. I just have to figure out how.” With that, her classmates shake their heads in agreement.

Then the dialogue opens up between the high school and college students.

And so does the possibility that these students – called at-risk by their high school – will have a connection with the college experience.

That is why Paul Hernandez, sociology, anthropology and social work assistant professor, created the College 101 program. College 101 happens at CMU every semester and gives high school students an opportunity to come to campus for a day. They go to a major fair, see a live concert, visit the residence halls and attend a lecture.

He says through surveys given to high school students who attended College 101, 89 percent reported a complete change in confidence about their potential to attend college.

“To witness firsthand the power of diverse groups of people coming together, sharing their passion with one another and making a difference in each other’s lives is touching. That is what happens during College 101.”

Transformation through education

In a Wednesday night class, Hernandez plans the spring College 101 visit days with CMU Honors students. More than 30 students work on major boards – with interests of the high school students in mind – and think up interactive activities.

“That is when the real dialogue will start. That is how you get through.”

Emma Tuthill, a sophomore who volunteered at College 101 in the fall, says it was difficult to hear what these students face in their school and personal lives.

“It’s not that they are unable to get good grades, but there are so many challenges that affect their ability to do well.”

That will be the purpose of College 101: to impact at-risk students.
Hernandez understands this. Growing up in deep poverty in Los Angeles, he lived on the streets, got involved with a gang and eventually dropped out of school.

“Administrators and teachers often spoke of me as a thing rather than a person. They struggled to connect with me and my homeboys or to help us see a world beyond the Los Angeles ghettos we called home,” he says.

“Rather than trying alternative methods to connect with students like us, our schools funneled most resources toward college-track students. They went on visits to universities, museums and corporate headquarters, while we were sentenced to meaningless repetitive tasks.”

Seeing many friends go to jail or die, Hernandez says he knew he needed to leave home – and that education would be the key. So he signed up for college courses at L.A. City College.

When Hernandez started college at California State University Los Angeles – where he snuck off to so his homeboys wouldn’t know – he says a professor, K. William Wasson, changed his perspective.

“I’d go into class and sit in the back of the room so that I could see everything. I’m sure I always had a scowl on my face. It wasn’t that I was mad. I was scared. That is how I masked my fear,” he says.

After class one day, his professor remarked, “I can see it in you, the heavy burdens you carry. If you ever want to talk, I am here.” When Hernandez saw his professor was sincere and not mocking, he took him up on that offer.

The two men struck up a friendship that continues to this day. “He connected me to resources, helped me research graduate schools and showed me how to prepare for the GRE,” Hernandez says. “I had the drive, but he had the knowledge on how to navigate the system. That is important to know, too.”

Learning to break the cycle

Now with his Ph.D., Hernandez says he wants to be that mentor. And he wants to teach others, like CMU’s Honors students, to be mentors, too.

Hernandez says he wonders what would have happened had an educator had faith in him and his neighborhood friends at an earlier age.

In addition to developing and facilitating College 101, Hernandez speaks to thousands of teachers and at-risk students annually and shares his experience. His message is more than inspirational. It is real.

“Growing up, school was the last thing on my mind and college didn’t even exist to me. Simply surviving was paramount. For many of those kids, they are just trying to survive,” Hernandez says.

“But eventually, I got to a point where I realized I didn’t want the life I was living. After failing in school for many years, I realized that education could be my guide out. I want them to know that education can be their way out, too.”

Assistant Professor Paul Hernandez is working on publishing a book on his “Real Talk” pedagogy that he uses in the classroom. He says Real Talk is powerful in the classroom and is helpful in reaching students.

His work and results with this approach has been published in the Fall 2011 National Education Association’s Thought & Action Journal.

“Many of the teachers I’ve worked with have personally noted the positive impact of Real Talk on their classrooms and students – and this is something I’d like to see happen for teachers all over the country,” Hernandez says.

Real Talk is reaching challenging students by connecting with them on a human level, he says. “We must connect with them as people and Real Talk helps with this,” Hernandez says. “It debunks the notion that the teacher exists only in the classroom, and it introduces the person behind the position.”

So how is it done?

“It starts with you – the teacher – introducing a theme. A universal, humanistic theme like happiness or adversity. You describe how you know the topic. We’ll use adversity. You talk about your experience. Then you talk about how your friends know adversity. By being real and sharing something about yourself, you are demystifying the teacher and introducing yourself as a person.

“And then pose the theme to your students. Do they know adversity? You might not get an answer right away, but as soon as one begins to share it will become a two-way street. The dialogue will start. But make sure it is connecting the curriculum, the lesson. You don’t want to have it become a counseling session.”

For more information, contact Paul Hernandez at herna3p@cmich.edu.
Standing on the second floor of Park Library’s sun-soaked atrium, Diane Thomas smiles as she makes some comparisons.

The building has the same name, but it isn’t the same library Thomas used when she studied library science here in the late 1970s.

An online computer-based system has supplanted the card catalog fellow students once helped to maintain manually while Thomas checked out books as a student assistant at the circulation desk, nearly 400 computers now are available for public use compared to the handful offered only to library staff more than three decades ago, and a bright color-filled openness has replaced the dark and cramped spaces she remembers.

“Among the nicest things about this new building are the windows and the brightness of it,” says Thomas, a 1977 graduate who today is CMU Libraries access services coordinator. “It’s just so welcoming.”

CMU this year is celebrating the 10th anniversary of Park Library’s expansion and renovation – a project that converted the library from a storehouse for printed academic materials to a comprehensive, highly technological information center.

The transformation modernized the old library to keep pace with the learning and research needs of students and faculty as well as to create an academic, cultural and support hub on campus.

“We’re not celebrating just the building, but the wonderful resource that Park Library is to our campus and the significance it has in our community and to our students, faculty and staff,” CMU President George E. Ross said at a special library staff luncheon Jan. 9, 2012, which marked 10 years to the day that the new library opened.

Project for CMU’s future

The $50 million library project required 2 ½ years of construction before reopening in January 2002. With more than 1.3 million printed volumes of materials housed on 33 miles
of moving shelves, Dean of Libraries Tom Moore says the vision was to create a library to enhance learning and research opportunities of the university for its students and faculty.

“It was important that the university create not only a functional and attractive library, but also serve as a symbol of the university’s commitment to teaching, learning and research,” Moore says.

To better serve the university community, space is available in the building to include other academic support units, such as the Information Technology Help Desk and Media Services, Student Disability Services, Faculty Center for Innovative Teaching, the Writing Center, and the recently opened Math Assistance Center. It also was developed to incorporate advanced technologies and electronic resources, including hundreds of public computer workstations, wireless connectivity and electronic resources that are available onsite and online.

“I think we’re pretty up-to-date with everything, and we try to keep on top of the newest technology,” Thomas says. “Even after coming into this building, we’ve added a lot of new technology. That’s what the students want. It’s what they expect.”

A visionary construction project turned Park Library of the past into a learning center for CMU’s future, complete with ample natural lighting and more than 400 computer workstations and 2,500 network connections.
Alumni and public access

Moore is quick to extend an open invitation to people beyond the university, including CMU alumni, to utilize Park Library. This includes everything from the library’s in-house and online resources to its periodicals, Clarke Historical Library, government documents and beyond.

“We welcome community users,” Moore says. “We are committed to being a resource for the larger community.”

While nonuniversity users can check out most materials and use online materials onsite, there are some restrictions, including not being able to order books through the Michigan eLibrary Catalog and not accessing databases or electronic books and articles outside of the building.

Among the many resources available to alumni, Clarke Historical Library is included within Park Library and focuses on the history of Michigan and the Old Northwest Territory, published works that shape the minds of young children, and the history of CMU. Among the primary users of Clarke Library are scholars and genealogists external to CMU. All this is what project planners were envisioning when they developed designs for a renovated and expanded Park Library nearly 13 years ago. Among these plans were to move beyond the building that opened in 1969 and create an engaging, well-lit, and technologically advanced facility that included services and resources to enhance the student and community learning experience well into the future, according to Gerry Edgar, CMU Libraries business services manager.

“We wanted to build something that could accommodate whatever changes would come along years from now,” he says. “It still feels new. There are days when I come into the building, look up into the atrium and think, ‘This is still pretty darn cool.’”

To learn more about Park Library visit library.cmich.edu.

alumni.cmich.edu/centralight for more

Life of the Library.

As CMU begins to look at its storied history and celebrate 120 years, one entity has remained constant through the decades: The CMU library. While students always could count on its resources, the locations have changed with the times.

Old Main. The library – with thousands of books – burned with the Great Fire in 1925.

Warriner Hall. The information collections were housed in Warriner Hall until the 1950s, when the space became too small.

Ronan Hall (original Park Library). Dedicated on April 26, 1956, this building was the first campus space exclusively for library use.

Charles V. Park Library. The Park Library was constructed in 1968 at the library’s current location and named for Charles Park, who came to Central as head librarian in 1931.

Finch Fieldhouse. While Park Library went through massive renovations from 1999 to 2002, Finch housed Library Services and the printed periodical collection, while books remained in Park Library.

Rennovated Park Library. The $50 million renovation project converted the library from a storehouse for printed academic materials to a comprehensive, highly technological information center.
Reacting to the past in the present

CMU class engages students using nationally adopted pedagogy

“¡Viva la revolución!” yells CMU senior Katie Buning as she storms out of her 11 a.m. history course. No one is surprised. It’s usual business for students in professor Jon Truitt’s Latin American Experience class.

Buning was assigned the role of Pancho Villa, a prominent general in the Mexican revolution to participate in a history scenario using “reacting to the Past” pedagogy.

RTTP consists of elaborate games, set in the past, where students learn by taking on roles informed by classic texts in the history of ideas.

RTTP is a method educators around the nation are implementing to increase student information retention. It seeks to draw students into the past, promote engagement with big ideas, and improve intellectual and academic skills. It is being practiced in over 300 universities in the United States and abroad.

“I wanted discussions of the material to be more exciting and more engaging,” says Truitt. “I wanted it to be less of me asking the students questions about the reading and more about them desiring to know more about the material.”

Truitt, a CMU professor in the history department, began implementing RTTP into his Latin American Experience curriculum in 2009. He decided to try the method to overcome the challenge of getting students to engage with assigned reading beyond a superficial level.

There is no fixed script or outcome. Students must rely on intellectual and academic skills to prevail in complex situations. They have to use skills such as speaking, writing, critical thinking, problem solving, leadership and teamwork in order to achieve their character objectives.

“I use the pedagogy as a way to get students to think about history in a different light. In the end I hope that students, majors and non-majors alike, get as excited about history as I am,” says Truitt.

During the game students must adhere to the philosophical beliefs and objectives of their character assignments, which can be different from many other classmates. Though the past can never be changed, the outcome of the games may turn out drastically different from actual history.

“Reacting to the Past is a lot of fun,” says Buning. “I’m getting to know my classmates and learning things about the Mexican Revolution I never would have learned from the usual class lecture.”

Class sessions are completely run by students, while instructors guide and grade both written and oral work. Participation is mandatory and it is common for students to meet and email each other outside of class.

To prepare for game sessions, Truitt gives students various supplemental materials to read. After two weeks of lecture on the game subject, students are required to write an essay on their character assignments.

In order for students to stay connected, Truitt uses avenues like email, Blackboard and Facebook. Students constantly have access to each other’s papers and different materials that revolve around the game.

Classes implementing RTTP can be taken to fulfill CMU’s University Program or electives for specific majors or minors. The pedagogy has been adopted in five courses this past semester and the number is set to increase for 2012.

“I want students to have a greater understanding of history sources written at the time and their critical thinking skills challenged,” says Truitt. “I hope the pedagogy encourages students to look at what is happening around them in their daily lives from more than one perspective.”

The future of Reacting to the Past at CMU

This coming July CMU’s College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences will host a game development workshop. The goal is to bring scholars and students from differing fields together to share and brainstorm ideas for future games.

Though RTTP pedagogy has only been used in the history department at CMU, games have been developed and used by people in fields from the humanities to natural and physical sciences.

Over the last two years the history department, First-Year Experience program, the Faculty Center for Innovative Teaching and College of Graduate Studies have supported additional training for faculty and graduate students implementing RTTP into their courses.

The history department currently is considering methods of expanding the pedagogy at CMU with undergraduates as well as graduate students.
Down a corridor off Warriner Hall’s first floor hallway, Steve Rellinger sits at his desk and flips through some government paperwork as his student employee Jeremy Simerson answers the phone.

Warriner Hall 114B is a modest-sized office considering the type of work Rellinger, ‘85 M.A. ‘96, and his crew are handling in the CMU Veterans’ Resource Center. Plus, the volume of users is destined to dramatically increase as more veterans return home from serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other assignments worldwide.

The recently established Veterans’ Resource Center is committed to providing all veterans assistance in understanding their educational benefits, help with building academic and social networks, and support in transitioning from active duty to attending classes in any of CMU’s locations or online.

“To help veterans with the transition we often put it as, ‘Just consider this your new mission,’” says Rellinger, the center’s director who actively served in the Navy from 1976 to 1980. “Now their mission is transitioning from soldier to scholar.”

It is estimated that nearly two million service members and their families became eligible for newly expanded benefits under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, better known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill that took effect Aug. 1, 2009.

Representing the largest expansion of veterans’ education benefits since passage of the original GI Bill in 1944, the Post-9/11 GI Bill increased the higher education benefits available to individuals who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces after Sept. 10, 2001.

A few quick questions from the caller and Simerson, ‘11, knows exactly where to find the information on the computer. He’s becoming all-to-familiar with the sometimes-complicated new GI Bill and other Veterans Affairs benefits. Simerson, who is a first-year graduate student in the master of science in administration...
Jeremy Simerson was deployed to Iraq nearly five years ago. Recently retired from the United States Marine Corps, he is pursuing his graduate degree in administration at CMU.

Program, often has similar questions himself. He is a veteran of the war in Iraq, serving there in 2006 to 2007 with the United States Marine Corps Reserves. “I had the full intention to go to school,” says Simerson, a native of St. Charles, Mich. “Working here I actually learned a lot about the benefits of the GI Bill.”

Rellinger says the center, which is coordinated through CMU Off-Campus Programs, serves 227 veterans on campus and the number more than doubles when counting veterans enrolled in classes at the 50 off-campus centers nationwide.

He says adjusting to taking classes usually isn’t the major concern for many veterans.

“The biggest challenge for veterans hasn’t been making the transition to scholarly endeavors, it’s been managing the VA process,” he says. “It takes a lot to get through that process, and we advocate for the veterans and help in working with the VA so they receive all their benefits.”

One Marine’s story

Marq Hicks is one student who has tapped into the Veterans’ Resource Center and has stepped up to advance its mission through the Student Veterans of America, a related on-campus registered student organization. The CMU chapter of this national student organization focuses on addressing the needs and concerns of veterans in higher education.

Growing up in Flint, Mich., and graduating from Carman-Ainsworth High School in 2001, Hicks was studying at Lansing Community College and working part time when he felt called to enlist in the military. Specifically, he wanted to become a Marine.

“I saw a Marine Corps commercial and I thought, ‘I can do that,’” Hicks says. “My dad, Ersell, and several of my uncles all had served in the Army. I needed to be different, and I had nothing to lose.”

But the Marine recruiters quickly told Hicks he actually did have something to lose: at least 30 pounds before they even would consider enlisting him. He willingly accepted the challenge and through intense training and dieting, Hicks dropped more than 50 pounds and in June 2006 enlisted as a training camp recruit in San Diego. Three months later he graduated as a full Marine.

“Going into training camp, I didn’t want to disappoint my family,” he says. “I graduated with a 97 percent – the class high score – and I had been meritoriously promoted to the rank of lance corporal.”

In the months following his graduation, Hicks spent time at military bases in North Carolina training as a helicopter mechanic. But a training-related leg injury followed by a freak bacterial infection in his dominant hand that required
centralight work with something I’m very passionate wanted to, but I have the opportunity to “I’m upset I didn’t get to serve the way I
conference in Las Vegas last December. Outreach Panel at the national SVA
opportunity to serve on the Veterans’
so involved he even had the beginning of this academic year. He got involved when he enrolled in the chapter and immediately became the CMU Veterans’ Resource Center and SVA chapter in the metro Detroit area. Hicks soon learned about the CMU Veterans’ Resource Center and the SVA chapter and immediately became involved when he enrolled in the beginning of this academic year. He got involved even had the opportunity to serve on the Veterans’ Outreach Panel at the national SVA conference in Las Vegas last December. “I’m upset I didn’t get to serve the way I wanted to, but I have the opportunity to work with something I’m very passionate about,” Hicks says. “We as veterans take care of other veterans, and the Veterans’ Resource Center and SVA are great resources. “When you’re with a group of people who’ve been through the same things as you, it’s that camaraderie you’re used to that so many others don’t understand.”

Making essential connections
Even though they’ve never met, Kathleen Logan knows exactly what Hicks is talking about. The Army veteran and senior public administration undergraduate major is working with Rellinger to increase the presence of the CMU Veterans’ Resource Center and SVA chapter in the metro Detroit area. These are all-too-important entities that help veterans to move forward, says Logan, who returned home to Oxford, Mich., in 2008 after serving for 16 months in Baghdad. Through her experiences as an Army mechanic, Logan, who still serves in the National Guard, says that entering civilian life after serving in the military can be overwhelming. If veterans don’t know such a resource exists to help them, it’s too easy to become frustrated with the processes related to college and quickly drop out of higher education. “I see that happening a lot,” Logan says. “It’s important to have the resource center. One of the best things to come out of this is networking with other veterans. We feed off each other and reach out to each other. “When you’re serving and you get into formation, you look at each other as if to say, ‘I will die for you.’ It’s a loyalty that doesn’t stop.” During her time following the Army, Logan has concentrated on earning her degree. She married a fellow soldier the same week she got out of the Army, and they moved to Georgia where she continued serving at Fort Stewart. Finding a “military friendly” university was Logan’s top priority. In Georgia she discovered South University. “A military friendly university gives credit for time served in the military, and that’s huge right now for all the veterans who are returning from their service,” she says. “Schools really need to have something in place to make this happen.” This is how Logan found CMU when she returned to Michigan to have her son, Jack. She soon began pursuing her undergraduate degree with classes taught at various CMU off-campus centers in metro Detroit, including Auburn Hills and Troy. In addition to classes at CMU she re-enrolled in Oakland Community College to complete some of her related elective courses. And it was at the community college where she launched an SVA chapter. “I set up a small booth at the Welcome Week event to see if there was any interest,” Logan says. “And wow! They came out of the woodwork, and I had 32 people signed up the first day.”

“It’s an honor to serve my fellow veterans in this way.”

She is continuing this passion by pursuing with Rellinger the opportunity to launch a Detroit-area Veterans’ Resource Center satellite office as well as an SVA Off-Campus Programs chapter. And CMU is heading up efforts in providing similar resources for all veterans throughout Michigan. By developing a collaborative consortium of the state’s 15 public universities, Rellinger currently is working with the state of Michigan to host a website that addresses issues specific to all veterans interested in pursuing higher education degrees. “We’re doing the right thing with taking the lead on this,” Rellinger says. “This is an important population, and we need to do well by them.” “It’s an honor to serve my fellow veterans in this way.”

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CMU is an AA/EO institution (see cmich.edu/aaeo). UComm 8585
CMU’s Career Services has location convenient for Southeastern Michigan alumni

Interview after interview, J’né Powell grew frustrated with her job search. She had experience. She had the education. She was enthusiastic.

“I am passionate about what I do. Even with the economy we are in, I thought it would translate and those things would put me back on my career path right away,” says Powell, ’98 M.H.S.A. ’11. “When it didn’t, it was upsetting because I didn’t know what more I needed to do.”

The Ann Arbor native worked as a home health care manager when she was laid off in 2010. Halfway through her CMU graduate degree already, she decided to go to school full time, hoping to find work immediately after May graduation.

When she didn’t, she went to her alma mater, asked for help and was directed to Dr. Terence Hallamon, assistant director of CMU’s Career Services.

Hallamon, M.S.A. ’91, is the Career Services resource for students and alumni in the Southeastern Michigan area. His office is located in the Off-Campus Programs Troy Center. The Troy Center is one of seven CMU professional education centers in Metro Detroit.

CMU’s Career Services offers lifetime services to CMU alumni. But with the main Mount Pleasant campus 2 ½ hours from the large CMU population near Detroit, Central decided to fund a position to counsel its alumni base closer to their homes.

“After the recession started, we started getting phone calls asking for résumé reviews, networking opportunities and career opportunities,” says Career Services Director Julia Sherlock.

“It rapidly increased. So in 2008 we went down to the Troy Center for a day. It was packed. We did career advising from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. That was when we realized that we needed someone to be a more immediate resource for our alumni.”

Powell says Hallamon, who started at CMU in 2010, was instrumental in her search.

“He gave me outstanding support,” she says. “He was a sounding board for hearing my concerns and then following up with constructive feedback regarding my skills presentation. He helped me prepare for interviews. He also was a main source for finding out about career opportunities.”

With Hallamon’s help, Powell had a position in her field lined up by October. She is currently a health care administrator at DaVita Crossroads Dialysis in Anaheim, Calif.

“I manage budgets, forecast expenses, communicate with vendors, order supplies, and ensure compliance with public health and safety standards,” she says. “I am back on my career path and doing what I want. CMU helped me get here.”

Dr. Terence Hallamon, a Detroit native, works with Jennifer McDonald, ’11, at the CMU Troy Center. He says job seekers need a support system with positive people. He says his wife, Carlotta Glover, parents, and siblings Libby and J.C. encouraged his career success.

Promote yourself

BY SARAH CHUBY, ’03 M.A. ’11
Leverage your resources

Sitting at a table in the Troy Center’s computer lab, Hallamon shows recent CMU graduate and Fraser resident Jennifer McDonald, a community development major, how to customize her résumé.

After McDonald, ’11, rattles off her experience to Hallamon, he pauses to think. Hallamon then says, “Think about the position you are applying for. Out of what you listed, what should you put down?”

Hallamon says it is important for job seekers to ask those types of questions.

“Customize yourself,” Hallamon says. “There are so many people looking for a job, that you need to set yourself apart. Employers aren’t going to do that for you.”

In addition to résumé and cover letter advice, Hallamon does mock interviews – complete with a digital recording of the session so that alumni and students can review it at home.

“That way, after you listen to the advice you are given, you can process it and watch yourself with those tips in mind,” Hallamon says. “It really hits home when you watch yourself and see how you come across to others.”

So how did Hallamon become an expert on helping others job seek? By going through the job search process himself.

Nearly four years ago, Hallamon stood in line at the CMU Troy campus waiting to get advice from Career Services. And Sherlock remembers their first meeting.

“He was driven. He was looking for opportunities to grow and network,” she says. “You could tell that he was a very self-motivated individual.”

Hallamon says he was a part of mass downsizing at GM, a company he worked at as an engineer for more than 20 years.

“I looked for employment for more than a year and it was difficult,” he says. “But I took that time to network and really look at how I was presenting myself to others.”

He attended many career fairs. He recorded himself during mock interviews. He reached out to professionals for résumé and cover letter advice.

“I did it all,” he says. “In addition to your skills, it is so important to make connections. That is what gets you where you need to go.”

When the Career Services position at CMU opened up, Hallamon applied. And found himself sitting across the table from a familiar face – Julia Sherlock, who assisted him at the Troy Center a little more than a year earlier.

He says all that work with job seeking research and networking was his key in landing the position.

“Never underestimate your experience. So many people dismiss things if there is not a check or monetary value attached to it,” Hallamon says. “But it is all important.”

Watch the doors open

Back in the Troy Center, Jennifer McDonald – who speaks with Hallamon weekly – sifts electronically through position listings.

Through working with Hallamon, McDonald says she has gotten interviews but hasn’t found the right fit yet. She wants to work for a nonprofit that promotes education.

“I’ve worked really hard to get here. I am an advocate for education because it opens doors,” she says. “I just need to keep looking until I find the right door to walk through.”

Listening to Hallamon’s advice, she has gone to CMU networking events and career fairs. McDonald, with the assistance of Hallamon, also is starting up a job seekers support group at CMU.

As McDonald passionately talks about helping others who are in similar job seeking situations, Hallamon shares information about a CMU job position that recently opened in the Troy Center.

“I think you’d be great for it. It’s working with students” he says as McDonald’s eyes light up. “Let’s look through your résumé and see how we can best showcase your talents.”

And that is the importance of networking.
CMU students are proud to serve others – and honor those who have made a difference and led by example. CMU students, faculty and friends recently gathered for a peace march and celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

PHOTO BY PEGGY BRISBANE
CMU Bookstore Hours
Monday - Thursday     8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday     8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday                        10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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For the seventh straight year, the CMU women’s soccer program has claimed the nation’s top grade-point average with a 3.7 cumulative mark during the 2010-11 season.

“Our players are committed to excellence in and out of the classroom and this honor proves that,” says head coach Neil Stafford.

The Chippewas posted the highest GPA of the 571 women’s soccer teams awarded the Team Academic Award by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America for posting a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.

All 22 players on the 2010-11 team finished with a GPA of 3.2 or higher, led by Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-Americans Bethany Allport (3.97), Stefanie Turner (3.96) and Bailey Brandon (3.93).

“We know the hard work required to repeat as national champions in any category, and this team’s sacrifice and commitment truly reflect the championship culture that defines CMU Athletics,” says Director of Athletics Dave Heeke.

The Chippewas are coming off a season in which they posted the highest won-lost-tied percentage (.786) in program history after going 15-3-3.
CMU welcomes Mose Rison

Mose Rison, ’78 M.S., ’83, a member of CMU’s 1974 Division II national championship team and former assistant coach, has returned to CMU to coach the Chippewas’ receivers.

“We are thrilled to welcome Mose back to CMU,” says CMU head coach Dan Enos. “His passion for Central Michigan University and expertise coaching the offensive skill positions will make him an invaluable part of our coaching staff.”

A native of Flint, Mich., Rison was a four-year letterman (1974-77) who still ranks 10th in school history with 2,838 career rushing yards. He was CMU’s Most Valuable Player and an All-Mid-American Conference first team selection after rushing for 1,241 yards and scoring 12 touchdowns in 1977.

The Winner’s Circle: Wrestling coach gets 300 career wins

CMU wrestling head coach Tom Borrelli earned his 300th career win this season, becoming the first CMU wrestling head coach to pass the milestone.

Borrelli, who is in his 26th season as the head coach of the Chippewas, reached the milestone with a 49-0 win over Sacred Heart in December at the Bison Duals at Bucknell.

He was recognized for his achievement at the conclusion of the Chippewas’ Jan. 27 match against Lehigh. Borrelli and the members of the 2010-11 Mid-American Conference champion wrestling team were then awarded their championship rings.

Borrelli is the second longtime Chippewa coach to reach a milestone victory total this year. In October, field hockey coach Cristy Freese recorded her 200th career victory when the Chippewas defeated Missouri State, 4-0.

That’s the ticket

With ticket demand at an all-time high for the 2012 football season, the CMU Athletics Department created a timeline that not only rewards longtime supporters, but also still leaves room for new Chippewa fans to join in.

Now through April 27: New season ticket sales

Now through April 27: Single-game MSU tickets on sale to Chippewa Club members and season ticket holders

May 9: Single-game tickets for all home games, including MSU (if available), on sale to Chippewa Club members and season ticket holders

June 1: Sales begin for all 2012 home games except Michigan State

The Chippewas’ seven-game home schedule includes games against Michigan State, Navy and Western Michigan.

Complete details of CMU’s 2012 ticket plan can be found online at CMUChippewas.com. Questions? Call the Chippewa Athletic Fund office at 989-774-6800 or Ticket Central at 1-888-FIRE-UP2.

The Stars of Track and Field

The CMU track and field and cross country programs honored the Mid-American Conference Champion 2002 women’s indoor track team at the Chippewa Invitational on Jan. 13.

In recognition of the 10th anniversary of the team’s championship, alumni and their families were invited to attend the first home indoor track meet of the season.

A special presentation was made during the meet to honor the championship team and former coach Kathleen Raske.

“One area that we emphasize in our program is giving recognition to the past teams that have built the tradition of CMU track and cross country,” says director of track and field and cross country Willie Randolph.

The alumni and their families enjoyed meeting with current Chippewa student-athletes and coaches.

The current group of Chippewas will be looking to rekindle that championship magic later this spring when CMU hosts the Mid-American Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships May 10-12.

Mid-American Conference Champion 2002 women’s indoor track team
CMU graduates have the drive to make a difference. And many do it shortly after turning their tassels at graduation.

To honor the work of CMU’s dedicated alumni, the Young Alumni Board recognized some recent graduates who have obtained exceptional achievements in their community and/or workplace.

The Young Alumni Awards have four categories: Distinguished Young Alumni Award, Outstanding Recent Graduate Alumni Award, Young Alumni Service Award and Young Alumni Entrepreneur Award.

Here are the 2011-2012 winners.

Distinguished Young Alumni Award
This award is presented to young alumni whose achievements in their field or avocation have received favorable recognition, who have received honors from associations or employers, or whose work has proven beneficial to a pronounced segment of society. This is the highest award achievable for young alumni given by the Alumni Association of Central Michigan University.

Kenneth Anderson, M.S.A. ’11
Aerial Port Flight Superintendent
U.S. Air Force, Andrews Air Force Base

“I find myself constantly reaching into my tool bag and pulling out what I’ve learned from the M.S.A. program. CMU has given me the ability to help fine-tune the engine that drives my organization’s success.”

Basil Lyberg, ’99
Executive Director
24 Hours of Booty in Charlotte, N.C.

“I owe so much to my education at CMU, which provided me with invaluable opportunities. I will be forever grateful to the many mentors who helped me build a solid foundation and enjoy a career, which impacts the lives of others every day.”

Outstanding Recent Graduate
This award is presented to someone who has graduated within the past 5 years, who has gone above and beyond in the community and workplace.

Tasha Candela, ’05 M.A. ’08
Business Teacher
Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores, Mich.

“While there are countless aspects that I adore, the personalized connections are my favorite part. Professors like Karl Smart, Susan Steffel or Timothy Brannan pushed me to my limits and made me feel special in classes of more than 35 students. As a current teacher in the Metro Detroit area, I have taken this philosophy seriously and build lasting relationships with each high school teenager.”

Young Alumni Service
This award is presented to alumni in recognition of their outstanding volunteer efforts in service to the community, state, military, country, Central Michigan University or an important social cause.

Sarah Clark, ’99 M.S. ’05
Contract Dietitian
Commission on Aging, St. Joseph County

“Getting my education at CMU was one of the best decisions of my life. I gained so many experiences necessary to who I am today. From the professor who took me under her wing to Alternative Spring Break to football games, I learned the value of hard work and fortitude, caring and compassion, and service.”

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Young Alumni Entrepreneur
This award is presented to alumni who have created a new business, venture or expanded an existing business.

Emily Doerr, ’07
Manager, Small Business Programs
Detroit Regional Chamber

“Attending CMU as a Centralis Scholar in the Honors Program allowed me to see all that you can get done if you position yourself to not simply be a number or someone who dwells in a place doing the status quo, but instead you push yourself, tackle projects, ask questions, volunteer, take charge, and choose to dwell in a place where change is needed and you can make a difference there. That’s the positive attitude I brought with me to Detroit when I moved here more than 3 years ago.”
Experience from Learning
From CMU to now, most important lessons come from involvement

By Marcie Lehr Otteman, ’87
Executive director of alumni relations

Recently I posted the following as a Facebook status:

“2012 is shaping up to be the year of experiences with lots of travel plans and events. Instead of buying things, I am going to enjoy these experiences with photos and memories.”

While I know this statement is true today, I am amazed to reflect that it was true for me some 25 years ago as a college student.

Now don’t get me wrong. I loved a pair of Reebok high tops and some stone washed denim with a Forenza sweater as much as the next co-ed.

As a CMU undergrad, I was all about spending my hard earned dollars to go somewhere with someone and do something.

Even if that experience was a speaker on campus, a student organization’s event or an athletic competition.

I was fortunate to learn so many wonderful skills from these experiences – time management, networking, public speaking and much more.

Even though I was going to these events for fun or to gain new experiences with friends, what I really did was hone my skills as a leader and develop the work ethic and attitude that would carry me into my career with the incredible experiences I have had since graduating in 1987 from CMU.

During my years at CMU – both as a student and staff member – I have been humbled to hear speakers like Allen Ginsburg, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Maya Angelou.

I have seen everyone from Spyro Gyra to Ozzy Osbourne to Dave Matthews in concert.

I have listened to senators, congress members and former presidential candidates. I have danced to Zydeco music, been moved by the symphony and cheered with the Marching Band.

And it has been these experiences at CMU that have had the greatest influence on me.

When I talk with current students about their life at CMU, I am not surprised to find their experiences are shaping them in the same way mine did me.

Only their experiences are mind blowing as they travel on $66 for a week on an alternative break to help AIDS patients five states away or clean up natural disaster sites or help deliver meals to the poor in the Appalachian mountains.

I am truly amazed at their study abroad experiences or hearing about how they start their own nonprofit organizations or win New Venture competitions.

Every day their experiences in and out of the classroom are shaping them, molding them and changing them.

My point is the “things” don’t shape, change or mold. Only experiences can do that. At least that is what I have discovered.

So call (or Facebook) some friends and come back to campus for an event. Or plan and cross something off of your bucket list. Do it now. So you can share your story with us later.

Marcie (Lehr) Otteman

Calendar

March
23 Young Alumni bowling party, 7 p.m., Riverwood Resort, Mount Pleasant
24 Opus XV School of Music gala, 6 p.m., Midland Center for the Arts
24-25 CMU Pow wow, CMU Events Center
26 SAA/Career Services Speaker Series, Mount Pleasant campus
28 through April 1 Central Michigan International Film Festival, Mount Pleasant campus and throughout Mount Pleasant

April
14 Scholarship Luncheon, noon, Student Activity Center

Threads Fashion show, CMU Events Center

May
4-5 Commencement ceremonies, CMU Events Center
12 CMU event at Arizona Diamondbacks game in Phoenix
15 CMU Baseball Clash at Comerica Park
18 CMU Night at Comerica Park

June
15 CMU event at Great Lakes Loons Game in Midland
15 Chippewa Challenge Golf Outing, Mount Pleasant
20 through 22 Grandparents U, Mount Pleasant campus
25 GLBR Golf Outing, Apple Mountain in Freeland, Mich.
30 CMU event at Tampa Bay Rays game in St. Petersburg

My point is the “things” don’t shape, change or mold. Only experiences can do that. At least that is what I have discovered.

So call (or Facebook) some friends and come back to campus for an event. Or plan and cross something off of your bucket list.

Do it now. So you can share your story with us later.

Marcie (Lehr) Otteman
African-American Constituent Chapter  
Contact: Lynn Garrett  
GMDFD@comcast.net

Ann Arbor  
Contacts: Bob Balicki, '79, and Gail Elliott, '94  
Bob: 313-608-7922  
Gail: 313-608-7923  
rj_balicki@yahoo.com  
gaelliott@sbcglobal.net

Atlantic  
Contacts: Mark Guy, '00  
770-475-3447

Battle Creek  
Contact: T.R. Shaw, '82  
269-965-2979  
trsbcmi@aol.com

Boston  
Contact: Call the alumni office at 800-358-6903.

Broadcast and Cinematic Arts Constituent Chapter  
Contact: Kevin Campbell, '74  
kevcamp55@charter.net

Central Texas  
Contacts: Jerry Juhnke, '86  
gujuhnkemi@yahoo.com  
Angie Farmilo Coats  
210-455-9968  
angieco241@aol.com

Charlotte, N.C.  
Contact: Michele Caldwell Kelly, '01  
shellkell@gmail.com

Chicago  
Contact: Ira Kreft, '77  
ijkreft@aol.com

Cincinnati  
Contact: Kevin Shea  
513-321-1695  
kms5750@aol.com

Cleveland  
Contact: Call the alumni office at 800-358-6903.

College of Business Administration  
Constituent Chapter  
Contact: Mark Baczewski, '97  
baczewskius@yahoo.com

Columbus, Ohio  
Contact: Jeremy Rycus, '95  
614-933-0436  
jrycus@insight.rr.com

Dallas  
Contact: Chris Dittman '88  
cditt@msn.com  
dfwchips.blogspot.com

Denver  
Contacts: Mary Van Meter, '80  
vannmetert@aol.com  
Terry Beatty, '70  
tbeatty@farmersagent.com

Detroit  
Contact:  
Christopher Jablonski, '83  
christopherjablonski@gmail.com

English Constituent Chapter  
Contact: Monica Brady, '03  
brady1mc@aol.com

Flint  
Contact: Ted Bunker, '69  
810-694-7359  
ted131@comcast.net

Florida  
The Alumni Association hosted an alumni reception in February at the Bellasera Hotel in Naples, Fla. More than 120 alumni and friends gathered for an evening of socializing.

Florida  
The Alumni Association hosted an alumni reception in February at the Bellasera Hotel in Naples, Fla. More than 120 alumni and friends gathered for an evening of socializing.  
Orlando contact:  
Jim Phillips, '99  
chiporlando@yahoo.com

Tampa Bay contact:  
Jason Frank, ‘04  
jmfrank@usf.edu

NFLPA  
Walt Disney World Resort:  
Contact: Paul Gaba, '88  
561-352-0635  
westpaulbeach@comcast.net

Naples contact:  
Jeff Stomber, '92  
jeff_stomber@yahoo.com

The Villages contact:  
Dick Cassle  
cassle_dick@aol.com

Football Constituent Chapter  
Contact: Dustin Preston, '94  
dpreston@capitalsteel.net

Grand Rapids  
Contact: Stephanie Oczepak, '99  
616-813-7086  
soczepek@gmail.com

Great Lakes Bay Region  
Contact: Ricardo Resio, '95  
rrresio@rehmann.com

Honors Constituent Chapter  
Contacts: Bryan Wieferich  
bryan_wieferich@yahoo.com  
Honors Program  
989-774-3902

Honors Program  
810-694-7359  
ted131@comcast.net

Honors Program  
913-962-9620  
fhmoussa@agtop.state.ks.us  
Jared Reid, '10  
reid1js@hotmail.com

Knoxville, Tenn.  
Contact: Lisa Fall, '86  
865-216-2507  
fall1lt@cmich.edu

Lansing  
Contact: Call the alumni office at 800-358-6903.

Latino Constituent Chapter  
Contact: Laura Gonzales, '79 M.A. '89  
lmgonzales1998@yahoo.com

Las Vegas  
Contact: Ann Marie Fredrickson, '94  
702-655-2118  
tchr1ann@aol.com

Leader Advancement Scholars Constituent Chapter  
Contact: Dan Gaken, '04  
gaken1dm@cmich.edu

Los Angeles  
Contact: Jeff Devers, '03  
713-722-0911  
bcox@djsunlimited.net

Milwaukee  
Contact: Mark Bender, '95  
m.bender@med.ge.com

Mount Pleasant  
The 3rd annual CMU Ski Weekend at Boyne Mountain was Feb. 10-12. About 160 CMU alumni and friends gathered to enjoy great skiing, meet fellow CMU alumni, and listen to CMU alumni sing and play the drums for the band MacDaddy.  
Contact: Dan Gaken, '04  
gaken1dm@cmich.edu

New England  
Contact: Kevin Richards, '89  
203-840-6221  
krichards@reedexpo.com

New York City  
Contact: Adam Ebnit, '03  
adam.ebnit@nyu.edu

The Saginaw Spirit event that took place on Saturday, Feb. 11. More than 50 alumni and friends attended the game. There was a pregame gathering at the Saginaw Club.
On Feb. 6, 30 Phoenix area CMU alumni and friends attended a Phoenix Coyotes vs. Detroit Red Wings hockey game. After the game, the group met at Margaritaville for some CMU camaraderie.

Northern Michigan
Contact: Kristen Beach, ’90 ’98 231-675-2136 counselor_klb@hotmail.com
Phoenix
Contact: Dale Wernette, ’67 480-515-5132 sherpadale@aol.com
Physician Assistant Constituent Chapter
Contact: Andrew Booth andrewbooth@hotmail.com
Raleigh, N.C.
Contact: Aaron Todd, ’97 919-423-4956 aaronjtodd@gmail.com
Reno
Contact: Carol Perrigo, ’72 775-747-5066 cperrigo@hotmail.com
Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services Administration
Constituent Chapter
Contacts: Chris Bundy, ’88 cbundy@mclpc.com
Susan Wells, ’77 welss@co.oakland.mi.us
ROTC Constituent Chapter
Contact: John Fisher, ’70 fisheljs@cmich.edu
San Diego
Contact: Greg Cox, ’00 858-534-0437 gcox@sea.ucsd.edu
San Francisco
Contact: Call the alumni office at 800-358-6903.

South Bend, Ind.
Contact: Kimber Abair, ’01 kabair@pressganey.com
St. Clair County
Contact: Dennis White, ’70 coachwhite2@comcast.net
Student Alumni Association Constituent Chapter
Contact: Emily Hall maroon@cmich.edu
Traverse City
Contact: Judith Danford Tank, ’68 231-267-5081
Twin Cities, Minn.
Contact: Sherry Magnusson 952-544-0030 smags@comcast.net
Volunteer Center Constituent Chapter
Join the CMU Volunteer Center Alumni Chapter at Be My Neighbor Day 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 21. All CMU alumni are welcome. Contact Melissa Bayne at melissabayne@yahoo.com to register and for event location details.
Contact: Nic Bottomley, ’95 bottomleyn@cmich.edu
Western Pennsylvania
Contact: Jeff Rivard, ’66 412-826-2180 jrivard@wpfga.org
Washington, D.C.
Contact: Tony Brown, ’02 202-882-2993 brown@cua.edu

Young Alumni board
President
Vice president
Directors
Derek Berger, ’06 Muncie, Ind.
Rochelle (Gall) Burns, ’03 Flushing, Mich.
Ryan Cremeans, ’05 Chicago, Ill.
Kendra (Bethke) Huckins, ’03 M.B.A. ’09 Mount Pleasant, Mich.
Ashleigh (Klipper) Laabs, ’07 Royal Oak, Mich.
Spencer Long, ’08 M.A. ’10 La Crosse, Wis.
Gregory Marx, ’08 Midland, Mich.
Brian Peters, M.S.A. ’08 North Prarie, Wis.
Ashley Price, ’09 Traverse City, Mich.

Alumni board
President
Thomas Lapka, ’78 East Lansing 517-482-0222 toml@mclpc.com
First vice president
Jan (Keegan) Hagland, ’77 Burlington janhagland@hotmail.com
Second vice president
Darlene Nowak-Baker, ’87 Milford 248-358-6403 dnowak-baker@fpfc.net
Directors
Meredith (Kolod) Allard, ’02 Sterling Heights
Rebecca Reyes Barrios, ’00 M.B.A. ’02 Canton
Jeffrey Benjamin, ’86 Saginaw
Jean (Bennett) Brown, ’88 Northville
Janet Burns, M.A. ’83 Ed.S. ’89 Royal Oak
Paul DeRoche, ’91 Commerce Township
Kevin Campbell, ’74 M.A. ’76 Midland
Ryan A. Fewins-Bliss, ’02 M.A. ’04 Bath
Lynn Garrett, ’97 Detroit
Laura Gonzales, ’79 M.A. ’89 Mount Pleasant
Daniel Herzog, ’91 Royal Oak
Timothy Hicks, ’74 M.A. ’77 Muskegon
Christopher Jablonski, ’83 Brighton
Brian Jones ’90 M.B.A. ’94 Midland
Adrian LaMar, ’89 Wyoming
Linda (Scharich) Leahy, ’82 Midland
Darcy Orlik, ’92 M.S.A. ’95 Mount Pleasant
Karen L. Phillips, ’99 Lansing
Kevin Richman, ’93 Milford
Charles Selinger, ’94 M.S.A. ’98 Ceresco
Darrell Shelton, ’85 Grand Rapids
Robert VanDeventer, ’74 Saginaw
Thomas L. Worobec, ’93 Dearborn Heights

On Feb. 6, 30 Phoenix area CMU alumni and friends attended a Phoenix Coyotes vs. Detroit Red Wings hockey game. After the game, the group met at Margaritaville for some CMU camaraderie.
1940s


1970s

**Stephen R. Boven**, ’70, recently retired after 42 years in law enforcement and investigations. He served as the Chief of Police of the Wilmore Police Department in Wilmore, Ky., and previously for the Michigan State Police.

**Charles H. Geletzke Jr.**, ’71, recently retired from the Canadian National Railroad with 45 years of railroad service. Additionally, his book, “The Detroit & Toledo Shore Line Railroad—Expressway For Industry,” was published in December.

**Diana Webb**, ’72, recently graduated from Northwood University with her doctor of philosophy in organization and management.

1980s

**Fang Won**, ’81, is the 2011-2012 National Commander for The American Legion, the world’s largest veteran’s organization.

**Lisa Kay Bailey**, ’84, married Richard Jackson in August 2010. She recently retired from Church of Christ Care Center in Clinton Township, Mich., after 24 years as director of activities.

**Valerie Gibson**, ’85, chief operation officer for DMC Harper University Hospital and Hutzel Women’s Hospital was selected to participate in Leadership Detroit Class 18, a yearlong community leadership program to enhance leadership skills of regional issues among senior-level executives in southeast Michigan.

**Tim M. Smith**, ’86, Skidmore Studio president and CEO, is helping to lead the revitalization of Detroit through investments in the city’s creative community. He recently moved Skidmore Studio, a 52-year-old design and illustration studio with 24 employees, into The Madison Building in Detroit.

**Kelley Culver**, M.S., ’87, received his M.A. in theology from St. Leo University, St. Leo, Fla., in December 2011. Kelley is in formation for the permanent diaconate in the Catholic Church and is scheduled to be ordained in Savannah, Ga., on May 26, 2012.

**Susan Zelmanski**, ’88, recently published a book titled “Master the Matrix: 7 Essentials for Getting Things Done in Complex Organizations.”

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For ADA accommodations call 800-358-6903 at least one week before the event. CMU is an AA/EO institution (see cmich.edu/aaeo). UComm 8027
1990s

Laura Catherine Anger, ’90, has recently been appointed executive vice president of human resources for Flagstar Bank.

Lori Barber, ’94, was recently awarded, Michigan High School Social Studies Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Council of Social Studies.

Anathea Collar, ’94, Arbor Hospice vice president of Human Resources, has been named the 2011 HR Executive of the Year for small to mid-size nonprofits by the American Society of Employers.

Carla Fles, ’94, recently won her 300th game as Cornerstone University’s women’s basketball head coach. This is her 13th season, and she has an overall record of 300-125.

Mary Solomon, ’96, has been named acting director of the Macomb County Community Services Agency. Solomon has worked in human services in Macomb County since 1992, when she was a case manager for the Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board.

Brenda (Zawacki) Meller, ’96, and husband, Chris, along with big brother, Joshua, welcomed baby Charlotte to their family in 2011.

Lori Kerlin, ’97, the Founder of Progressive Development, has recently earned the prestigious designation of Associate Certified Coach by the International Coach Federation. By earning an ACC credential, Dr. Kerlin has made a solid commitment to her profession of executive and business coaching.

Cynthia C. North, ’99, recently was promoted from assistant activities director and is now director of activities at Church of Christ Care Center in Clinton Township, Mich.

2000s

Leslye R. Kornegay, ’00, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in education at the University of Vermont.

Marcus D. Goodson, ’01, executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers, Fla., has been elected president of the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

Karla Van Havel, ’02, recently became a contributing author for the book “The Virtual Executive: How to Act Like a CEO Online and Off” which will be coming out in April. She also is currently working on her Ph.D. in organizational and human development and a dissertation on the life course perspective of cognitive neurosciences and learning.

Anne Veltema, ’02, completed a Master’s of Management from Cornerstone University. She works in public relations in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dan Mazei, ’03, was promoted to vice president/media director in the New York office of GolinHarris public relations.

Jennifer Wilusz, ’03, and husband, Mike Wilusz, ’01, welcomed their son, Henry Michael Steven, on Aug. 27, 2011.

Mamiko Reeves, ’07, was recently appointed as the dean of international programs at Northwood University.

Sean Trowbridge, ’09, was recently hired at ASTI Environmental to serve as an associate. He has performed numerous mold and indoor air quality assessments of residential, commercial and industrial property in Michigan, which will add to his experience with the company.

Mamiko Reeves, ’07, was recently appointed as the dean of international programs at Northwood University.

In Memory


Seaman Jacob R. King, ’10, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J., where he will join 36,000 other men and women who comprise the Coast Guard’s workforce.

Send us your news

We want to include your news in Centralight. Write to us about recent job promotions, awards, marriages, births, and other noteworthy accomplishments or changes. Be sure to include your graduation year and contact information.

Send your information:
Email: alumni@cmich.edu
Fax: 989-774-1098
Mail: Centralight, University Communications, West Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant MI 48859.

continued on next page
Helen Moss, ’42, Owosso, Mich., Nov. 4, 2011, age 92.
Timothy E. Cuprisin, ’78, Whitefish Bay, Wis., Nov. 23, 2011, age 53.
Harrison F. Hooker, ’50, Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 28, 2011, age 87.
Lois K. (Kaplan) Gratton, M.A. ’69, Port Orange, Fla., Dec. 18, 2011, age 84.
Genevieve V. (Valentour) Alexander, M.A. ’76, Fort Thomas, Ky., Dec. 8, 2011, age 84.
Thomas T. Moxley, M.A. ’82, Aberdeen, Md., Nov. 27, 2011, age 78.
Barbara (Holt) Payne, M.A. ’84, Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 31, 2011, age 61.

Retirees
Mary Jane Hodgins, Saint Augustine, Fla., Nov. 16, 2008.
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I am Central:

John Phillips
Senior
Biology, Environmental Studies and History major

A triple threat
“Triple majoring just made sense to me – all three of those things tie together. Ever since I was young I had some sort of dirt under my fingernails and a love for creatures making biology a perfect fit. Because of that, I have always been passionate about the environment and have loved the outdoors, which led to my interest in environmental studies. Plus the environment can use all the help it can get, especially when it comes to preserving it. And history helps us understand how everything has evolved over time.”

Paving the Rhode(s):
University history was made when he became the first undergraduate CMU student to be nominated for the prestigious Rhodes Scholar award. “It was exciting being the first. I hope this starts a trend for more CMU students being nominated for the scholarship and other students are provided the chance for such an opportunity to occur.”

Lending a hand:
Through Alternative Breaks at CMU, Phillips helped repair hurricane-damaged homes in Mississippi, performed environmental services in the Gulf of Mexico and led volunteers in nature-conservation projects in the Everglades. “Going out and making a difference in the environment makes you feel so good. I think it’s kind of a selfish thing for how good it makes you feel.”

Going the distance:
As president and a member of the CMU Triathlon Club, Phillips devotes considerable time to training and athletic development and led his team in numerous collegiate triathlons, including the 2011 USAT Collegiate Championships.

Next step:
Phillips plans to pursue a career in conservation biology. He has substantial laboratory study and international fieldwork as well as conference presentations and publications in herpetology. But he is taking time to focus on his future. “I have looked into graduate programs and even the Peace Corps. I am looking forward to the challenges of the future and where it will take me.”

•

John Phillips
Senior
Biology, Environmental Studies and History major
‘It’s really nice to be able to share with others.’ – Suzanne Baber ’48

Suzanne L. Houghton Baber, ’48, and her husband, Raymond “Bud” Baber, have made remarkable contributions in a variety of areas to support many projects at Central Michigan University.

Through their estate plans, outright gifts and a giving plan that provides them a fixed income during their lives, the Babers have touched and will continue to impact the lives of many in the CMU community.

Among their contributions, Baber and her husband, who passed away in 2005, established an endowed scholarship in education and the Baber Classroom in the Education and Human Services Building. The Baber Room in Park Library also was named in honor of their support of the library’s expansion project.

“My husband and I were fortunate enough to have the resources available,” she says. “It’s really nice to be able to share with others.”
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Since the 1999-2000 academic year, Chippewa teams have captured 43 Mid-American Conference titles in 14 of the 16 sports CMU offers.